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RYTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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ANNUAL

REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE

YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31st, 1946.

H. E. DUNSTAN, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.
EDWIN JOICEY, M.S.I.A., A.R.San. I.
Certified Inspector of Meat and other Foods.
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Public Health Officers of the Authority.

Medical Officer of Health—

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Sanitary Inspector—

EDWIN JOICEY, M.S.I.A., A.R.San.I.
Certified Inspector of Meat and other Foods.

Clerk—

Miss I. I. CRAIG.

Health Department,
Council Offices,
Ryton Tower,
Ryton,
August, 1947.

To The Chairman and Members of the
Ryton Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting the Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1946.

The general health of the district continues to be maintained at a satisfactory level.

There has been a considerable reduction in the number of cases of diphtheria, scarlet fever and measles, and there have been only isolated cases of the less common infectious diseases. No deaths from diphtheria were recorded, and, of the 11 cases notified, 7 had not been immunised. Efforts are being made to encourage more parents to have their children protected, and re-immunised on attaining school age.

Two very pressing problems exist. One is the provision of maternity accommodation for those whose home conditions are unsuitable for domicilliary midwifery, the other the provision of increasing numbers of houses to rehouse those living in unfit houses and to accommodate those who are living as sub-tenants. Many of these latter are newly married couples living with relations and, through lack of accommodation and other factors, this often leads to the decision not to have children and to an early separation of the young husband and wife.

I have again to record my appreciation of the Sanitary Inspector's willing and constant help, both in the administration of the Health Services of the district and the compilation of this report. My thanks are also due to the other Council Officials for their valued help in many ways.

I am, Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,
H. E. DUNSTAN,
Medical Officer of Health.

MEDICAL OFFICER'S ANNUAL REPORT.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area. The acreage remains at 5,145.

Population. According to 1931 Census was 14,204.

Population — Estimated 13,540.

Number of Inhabited Houses (at 31st December, 1946) according to rate books=3741

Rateable Value (at 1st October, 1946) =£54,983

Sum Represented by Penny Rate (1st April, 1946) equals £199/15/10

Physical Features and General Character of the Area. The Ryton Urban District is situated on the north-west extremity of the county and is bounded on the north by the Tyne, on the south and east by tributaries of the river known as the local burns, the Barlow Burn and the Blaydon Burn which separate it from the Blaydon Urban District, and on the west by the Stanley Burn which forms the boundary between Ryton Urban District and the County of Northumberland.

The Urban District is divided into four wards, named Crookhill, Ryton, Crawcrook and Ryton Woodside. The Ryton and Crawcrook wards although much lower than the Greenside (600 ft.) and the country to the south, stand well above the level of the Tyne which is about a mile to the north of Crawcrook and about half a mile north of Ryton, and have excellent natural drainage. The only low-lying parts of the district are the areas near to the river at Clara Vale and at Ryton Haughs where there are two rows of houses near Newburn Bridge.

The greater part of this district is agricultural. There is one Brick yard and there are a few Stone, Sand and Gravel Quarries Most of the population is employed at the Collieries of which there are five, situated at Greenside, Clara Vale, Barmoor, Stargate and Addison.

The soil is clay and sand.

Births. The total number of live births was 252, of which 122 were males and 130 females, an increase on last year of 14. The number of births for 1945 was 238 and for 1944 was 269. Of the total live births 13 were illegitimate. The natural increase of the population for the year, i.e., the excess of the births over deaths, was 97 as against the natural increase for the previous year of 89.

The Live Birth Rate for the year was 18 61 as against that of 18.35 for 1945. This was lower than the rate both for the Administrative County (21.3) and for England and Wales (19.1).

Deaths. The total number of deaths was 155, comprising 82 males and 73 females. This corresponds to an annual death rate of 11.45 that for the administrative county being 11.6 and that for England and Wales, 11.5. The number of deaths in 1945 was 149, giving a death rate of 11.49.

Approximately 40% of the deaths occured in people over 70 years of age.

Infantile Deaths. The number of deaths registered under one year was 14, 8 males and 6 females. The infantile death rate was 55, that of the county 49, and that of England and Wales 43.

Of the infantile deaths, 55% occurred during the first week of life.

A graph comparing the Infantile Mortality Rates of Ryton, Durham County and England and Wales, is appended. (Page 11).

Deaths from Zymotic Diseases. 1 such death was recorded.

Respiratory Diseases. There were 4 deaths from pneumonia, 7 from bronchitis and 1 from other respiratory diseases, making in all 12 deaths due to respiratory diseases other than phthisis. This gives a death rate from respiratory diseases of 0.88.

Tuberculosis. Pulmonary Tuberculosis caused 3 deaths as compared 0 in 1945 representing a Phthisis mortality of 0.22. There was 1 death from other tubercular disease, giving a non-pulmonary tuberculosis death rate of 0.07.

The total tuberculosis mortality was therefore 0.29 as compared with the County rate of 0.63.

Cancer. Deaths due to cancer numbered 22 compared with 20 during 1945. 9 were males and 13 females, giving a death rate of 1·62.

Heart Disease caused 43 deaths, and other cardio-vascular diseases 7, giving a total of 50 deaths and a death rate of 3·69.

Extracts from Vital Statistics for the Year.

	Total	M.	F.	
Live Births Legitimate	239	113	126	Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 18.61
Illegitimate	13	9	4	
Still Births Legitimate	4	1	3	Rate per 1,000 (Live and Still) Births 15 56.
Illegitimate	1	—	1	
Deaths	155	82	73	Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 11.45

Deaths from puerperal causes (Headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar General's Short List):—

	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births
No. 29 Puerperal Sepsis ...	—	—
No. 30 Other puerperal causes		—
Total ...	—	—

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age—	
All Infants per 1,000 live births	55
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Legitimate live births	58.57
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 Illegitimate live births	Nil
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	22
,, Measles (all ages)	—
,, Whooping Cough (all ages)	Nil
,, Diarrhœa (under 2 year of age)	1

Nursing Arrangements.

The general nursing in the district is carried out by the Ryton and Greenside Nursing Associations, voluntary bodies maintained by public subscription, and by regular contributions which the miners employed in the district allow to be deducted from their wages. In addition, the owners of the Stella Coal Company, together with other well wishers in the district give generous support. Grants for the associations are made by the Public Assistance Committee through the County Council and a portion of these go towards the care of special cases. There is little doubt that all these donors are well satisfied with the treatment afforded by the visiting nurses who regularly attend patients throughout the district.

As a practitioner I should like to express on behalf of my colleagues and myself our appreciation of the work done by both Associations and their nurses.

There are three district midwives resident in the district and Durham County Council, as Maternity and Child Welfare Authority is responsible for their appointment. Telephones are installed in the nurses homes for the convenience of patients. During the past year the Midwives have carried out their duties with great care and efficiency.

Laboratory Work. The County Council of Durham has an arrangement with the Central Public Health Laboratory, King's College, Newcastle, to which specimens may be sent and examined free of charge to the patient or practitioner. (See Table on page 13.)

Hospital Provision.

Infectious Diseases. The Joint Infectious Diseases Hospital at Norman's Riding, Winlaton, serves the needs of this district and in addition admits all necessary cases from the Blaydon and Whickham Urban Districts.

During the year 17 cases were admitted from the Ryton area.

Provision has been made by the Joint Hospital Committee so that any cases of Small Pox arising in the District may be treated at the Howdon Bank Hospital under the County Small Pox Scheme.

Tuberculosis. Durham County Council has provided various sanatoria throughout the county for the treatment of tuberculosis cases. The number of beds available for the purpose is 538. The nearest tuberculosis dispensary is at Whickham (5 miles).

General. The Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle, receives the greater proportion of Medical and Surgical cases from the Ryton area. It also provides a Convalescent Home for males and females at Castle Hill which is situated on the Western boundary of the district—114 beds are available.

Midwifery and Gynaecology. Of those midwifery and gynæcological cases sent to hospital, most find their way either to the Princess Mary Maternity Hospital or the gynæcological Department of the Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle. Arrangements have now been made to send some emergency cases to Bensham General Hospital. A maternity and child welfare clinic provided by the County Council is held regularly in Ryton.

Venereal Diseases. The County has an arrangement whereby such cases are treated at a special clinic at the General Hospital, Westgate Road, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

School Clinics. These services are provided by the County Council.

Ambulance Facilities.

Infectious Diseases. An ambulance is provided by the Joint Hospital Board to serve Ryton, Blaydon and Whickham.

Non-Infectious Cases. The Miners at the various collieries in the district provide and maintain 4 Ambulances. These are stationed at Greenside, Clara Vale, Emma, and Stargate.

The Ryton Council pays a small retaining fee for a privately owned ambulance.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

During the year there were 80 cases of Infectious Diseases notified, and of these 43 were due to Measles, 11 Diphtheria, and 6 to Scarlet Fever.

The incidence of infectious diseases within the district can in no wise be deemed unsatisfactory.

Enteric.—None notified.

Smallpox.—No cases notified.

Diphtheria. 11 cases were notified, all of which were removed to hospital. Of these, only 4 had been immunised

Diphtheria Immunisation. Immunisation has been carried out as indicated in the following table:—

	Children.	
	School.	Pre-School.
1941	1,292	220
1942	279	273
1943	33	254
1944	8	124
1945	8	153
1946	6	201

Antitoxin is, of course, still supplied by the Council free of charge to general practitioners for the immediate treatment of both definite and suspected cases of Diphtheria occurring within the district.

The prophylactic used is an Alum Precipitated Toxoid prepared by Messrs. Burroughs Wellcome & Co.

Scarlet Fever. 6 cases were notified, 5 of which were removed to hospital. There were no deaths. 12 cases were notified during 1945.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum. 3 cases were notified during the year.

Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis. 1 case notified.

Erysipelas. 3 cases were notified during the year as compared with 3 cases during 1945. No deaths.

Measles. 43 cases were notified, as compared with 106 the previous year.

Whooping Cough. 8 cases were notified during the year.

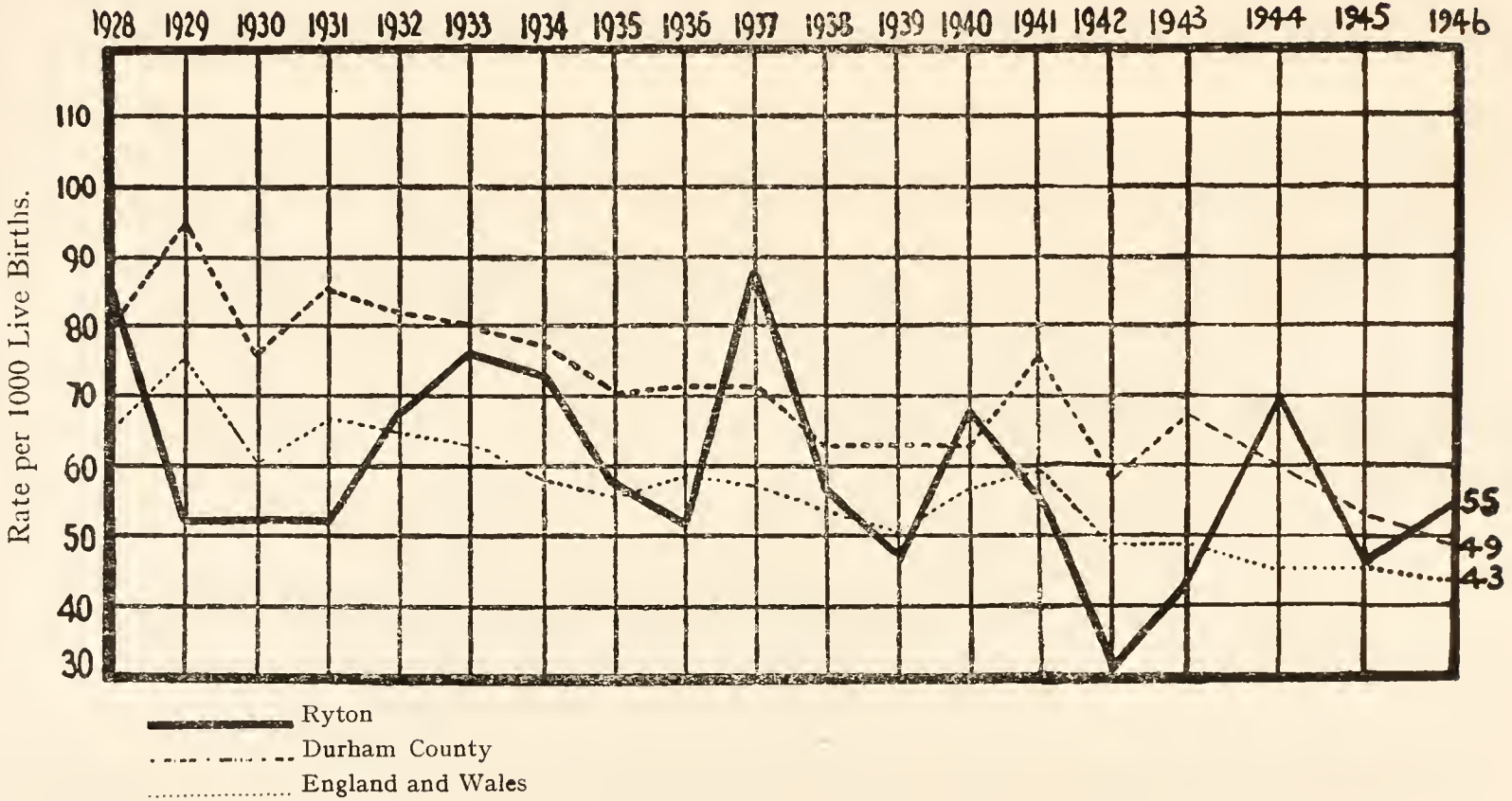
Scabies. During the year free treatment was provided under the Scabies Order, 1941, a suitable medicament being issued to patients on production to the Health Department, of a certificate signed by a Medical Practitioner. Facilities for more radical disinfestation are available at the First Aid Post, Miners' Welfare Hall, Blaydon, by arrangement with Blaydon Urban District Council.

Details of treatment:

Number of cases for whom lotion was provided ... 180

As it is now the practice to treat all the occupants of a house in which scabies is found, whether they be infected or not, it may be noted that this figure is not a true index of the incidence of the disease in this area.

Graph comparing Infantile Mortality Rates of Ryton, Durham County, England and Wales since 1928.



Tuberculosis.

New Cases and Mortality during 1946

Age Periods	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory		Non-Resp'ry		Respiratory		Non-Resp'ry	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0								
1								
5	1	1	1	1				
15		3					1	
25	2	1						
35		2	1		1			
45	1			1	1			
55								
65 &upwa'ds						1		
Total	4	7	2	2	2	1	1	

Deaths from Cancer.

Age Periods	0	1	5	10	15	20	25	35	45	55	65 and over	Total
Male ...										2	7	9
Female								2		4	7	13
											Total	22

Bacteriological Examinations.

Year	Enteric Fever Serological Examinations				Diphtheria		Tuberculosis		Tuberculosis *		Miscellaneous †	
	Positive.		Negative	Inconclusive								
	Typhosis	Paratyphosis B			No	Positive	No	Positive	No	Positive	No	Positive
1945	—	—	—	—	35	4	15	1	78	6	6	2

*These are the tuberculosis specimens taken at County Dispensaries, Hospitals and Sanatoria.

† This section comprises examinations for Brucella Abortus, Haemolytic Streptococci, Enteric Groups, Diphtheria Virulence and Diphtheria direct swab, which have been specially approved by the County Medical Officer.

P—Positive.
N—Negative.
I—Inconclusive.

Prevalence of and control over Infectious diseases.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis).

	Under 1 year	1	2	3	4	5	10	15	20	35	45	over 65	Total	Cases admitted to Hospital
Scarlet Fever ...			1		1	3		1					6	5
Diphtheria ...			1			2	1	3	3		1		11	11
Enteric ...														
Puerperal Pyrexia ...														
Pneumonia ...			1							2	1	1	5	1
Opth. Neon. ...	3												3	
Erysipelas ...											2	1	3	
Encephalitis Lethargica														
Acute Poliomyelitis ...														
Cerebro spinal Meningitis									1				1	
Whooping Cough ...	1	2	1			2	1		1				8	
Measles ...	2	4	3	9	7	18							43	

Grand Total 80

Incidence of Principal Infectious Diseases since 1937

Year	Scarlet Fever		Diphtheria		Enteric		Measles		Whooping Cough	
	Cases Notified	deaths	Cases Notified	deaths	Cases Notified	deaths	Cases Notified	deaths	Cases Notified	deaths
1937	37	2	44	2	1	—	—	—	—	2
1938	44	2	48	3	2	—	—	—	—	1
1939	23	—	19	1	—	—	—	—	3	—
1940	2	—	23	3	2	—	77	—	—	—
1941	11	—	11	—	—	—	92	—	41	—
1942	26	—	14	—	—	—	86	—	—	—
1943	21	—	12	—	1	—	26	—	1	—
1944	16	—	10	—	—	—	33	—	1	—
1945	12	—	20	1	—	—	106	1	2	—
1946	6	—	11	—	—	—	43	—	8	—

TOTAL DEATHS.

Causes of Death in Ryton U.D., 1946.

Causes of Deaths.	Males	Females
All Causes ...	82	73
Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers ..	...	...
Cerebro-spinal fever ...	1	...
Scarlet Fever ..	...	...
Whooping Cough ...	..	...
Diphtheria	..	...
Tuberculosis of respiratory system ...	2	1
Other forms of tuberculosis ...	1	...
Syphilitic diseases .	1	...
Influenza	...	...
Measles ...	..	...
Ac : Polio-Myel: and polio- enceph ...	...	...
Ac : Inf. Enceph ...	...	...
Cancer of buc , cav. and oesoph (M) uterus (F)	1	1
,, of stomach & duodenum ...	3	5
.. of breast ...	...	1
,, of all other sites ...	5	6
Diabetes ...	...	1
Intrac ranial vascular lesions ...	11	15
Heart disease ...	22	21
Other diseases of circulatory system ...	3	4
Bronchitis ...	5	2
Pneumonia ...	4	...
Other respiratory diseases ...	1	...
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum ...	...	...
Diarrhœa under 2 years .	1	...
Appendicitis ...	...	..
Other digestive diseases ...	2	...
Nephritis ...	3	...
Puerperal and post-abort sepsis ...	...	...
Other maternal causes ...	..	...
Premature birth ...	3	1
Congenital mal: birth inj: infant: dis....	2	4
Suicide ...	...	...
Road Traffic Accidents ...	2	1
Other violent causes ...	4	2
All other causes ...	5	8
Live Births—		
Total ...	122	130
Legitimate ...	113	126
Illegitimate ...	9	4
Still Births—		
Total ..	1	4
Legitimate ...	1	3
Illegitimate ...	..	1
Deaths of Infants under 1 year—		
Total ...	8	6
Legit mate ...	8	6
Illegitimate ...	...	...

Population... ... 13,540
Comparability Factor... Not available.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

The work done in the Sanitary Inspector's department during the year has been efficiently carried out, and the details will be found in the tabular statement appended.

Water Supply. The Water Supply is obtained from the Newcastle and Gateshead Water Co. The water is of good quality, and the supply continuous and plentiful, and is piped to all houses, except a very few that are isolated and derive their supply from wells, etc.

Rivers and Streams. No action taken.

Drainage and Sewerage. The sewerage system has been efficiently maintained.

Roads and Streets. A restricted amount of road repair has been carried out.

Rodent Control (Infestation Order 1943). Treatment of the sewers is carried out every six months for the destruction of rats.

Closet Accommodation. There are now in the district 3,966 water closets, 112 ash closets, and 20 ashpit privies.

Scavenging. The Council is directly responsible for the whole of the scavenging in the district. This is carried out under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector. Horses are being replaced by motor transport, at the end of the year three horses with covered cards and two motor vehicles were being used. An additional motor was ordered to replace the remaining horses.

The majority of the houses are provided with dust bins which are emptied twice weekly if necessary. The others are emptied once a week. Refuse is disposed of by tipping (controlled) in old quarries and is also used for land reclamation.

During the year 333,935 receptacles were cleansed the estimated weight of refuse removed is 7,850.

Salvage. Salvage collection and its disposal have been actively carried out and the following table shows a comparison of the amounts collected since the scheme was put into operation :—

Year	Waste Paper	Metals	Textiles	Bones
	Cwts.	Cwts.	Cwts.	Cwts.
1940	1023¾	1182¼	110¼	84½
1941	1415	1491¾	157½	79
1942	1533	1319½	198¼	112½
1943	1180½	532¾	164¼	164½
1944	867¾	86½	165¾	93¾
1945	821¼	100	62	55½
1946	660¾	3¾	46	31

The Disinfection of Houses. During the year 17 houses have been disinfected. The bedding and clothes of the persons removed to the Conjoint Hospital are taken there and disinfected by steam. In other cases their cleansing is carried out at home.

In all cases of infectious disease disinfectants are supplied by the Council free of charge.

Shops and Offices. It has not been necessary to take any statutory action under the provisions of the Shops Act, 1934, or of the Public Health Act, 1936.

Camping Sites. Two sites in the area, one on each bank of the river were periodically used for Camping over short periods during the year. The sites are not licenced.

The camps are regularly inspected when in use.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

Number of houses:

	Found to be Infested	Disinfested
Council Houses	—	—
Other Houses	10	10

Instructions regarding disinfesting and cleansing are given and periodic visits made to infested houses until they are judged clean. The work is carried out by the tenants, and where property is unoccupied by the owners. Fluid insecticide is supplied by the Council and pressure sprays are issued on loan.

It has been found that the active co-operation of the tenants of houses is necessary to ensure thorough disinfestation, as in most cases several applications of insecticide are required.

No action is taken by the Council to ensure that the belongings of tenants are free from vermin before their removal to Council Houses.

Cinemas. There are two in the area, both of which are kept in a clean and satisfactory condition.

Schools. The schools are modern with good sanitary arrangements. A good water supply is provided.

Recreation Grounds. There have been no extensions.

HOUSING.

Routine inspections have not been carried out since the outbreak of war, but all complaints are investigated and action is taken to have essential repairs carried out as early as possible. Some delay is inevitable owing to the shortage of labour and materials.

The majority of the houses are of modern construction and most of them well-built; the new streets are well planned and there is practically no crowding of houses into confined yards and courts. In addition the district enjoys the natural advantages of being situated on rising ground and in being surrounded by open country.

Since 1st January, 1920, there have been built—

541 houses by private enterprise.

642 houses by the Council.

Back to back houses at Addison are being gradually converted into through houses with bathrooms and hot water systems. Present conditions are holding up progress in the reconditioning of the remainder of this type of house elsewhere. Thirty back to back houses at Emmaville are being dismantled as material is required for other purposes.

Overcrowding. Reliable figures are not available owing to the movement of population as a result of the war.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk and Dairies Order, 1926. The whole of the cowsheds and dairies in the district are regularly inspected and are found to be kept in a reasonably clean condition.

Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936. Six licences have been granted for the sale of Pasteurised Milk.

Four farms are producing "Accredited" milk, one of these is licensed to produce and bottle. Three farms are producing "Tuberculin Tested" milk.

Food and Drugs. The regulations under the sale of food and drugs, etc., are carried out by the County Council.

The inspection of places where food is prepared e.g., bakehouses, sausage-making, fish and chip shops, etc., takes place regularly. These are found to be kept clean and orderly.

Meat Inspection. There are 13 slaughter houses, of which five are licensed, the licences of the remainder have not been renewed as all slaughtering, with the exception of cases of emergency slaughter and the slaughter of cottagers pigs, is done outside the district. The retail butchers in the area have a central distribution point, but so far as practicable all meat is inspected before being removed to retail premises.

Other Foods. Systematic inspection of shops, stores, etc., where prepared foods, etc., are sold is carried out.

There are 4 bakeries in the district. These are frequently inspected. They are clean, orderly and up-to-date in their general arrangements.

SUMMARY OF WORK done in the SANITARY INSPECTOR'S DEPARTMENT during 1946

Public Health Acts.	Number of Informal written Notices by Inspector	Number of Formal Notices by order of Authority	Number of Nuisances abated after Notice.	Gen. Remarks
Dwelling houses & Schools—				
Foul Conditions -	1	...	1	
Structural Defects -	63	48	69	
Overcrowding -	...	...	...	
Lodging-houses -	...	...	...	
Dairies, Milkshops -	...	...	...	
Cowsheds - - -	56	...	56	
Bakehouses -	1	..	1	
Slaughter-houses -	...	...	...	
Ashpits and Privies -	33	6	33	
Deposits of Refuse & Manure	...	.		
Waterclosets -	16	1	15	
Defective Yard Paving -	6	1	4	
House Drainage — -	...		...	
Defective Traps -	...	...	...	
No Disconnection from Sewers -	...	..	...	
Other Faults -	19	6	19	
Water Supply -	1	1	1	
Pigsties - -	...	...	.	
Animals Improperly Kept	2	...	2	
Smoke Nuisances - -	...	...		
Other Nuisances -	8	...	8	
Total -	206	63	209	

Water, Food and Drugs.		
Samples of Water taken for Analysis -	...	
,, ,, condemned as unfit for use -	...	
Seizures of Unwholesome Food - -	*	*140 Certificates of surrender issued
Convictions for selling or exposing Unwholesome Food -	...	
Samples of Food & Drugs taken for Analysis	...	
,, ,, found Adulterated - -	...	

Precautions against Infectious Disease	No	
Lots of Infectious Bedding stoved or destroyed	17	Steam Disinfected at Hospital
Houses disinfected after Infectious Disease	17	
School do do -	..	
Prosecutions for exposure of infected persons or things - - -	...	
Convictions for do do do		

General.	No.
Number of New Houses erected during year	8
Number of such Houses occupied during year	8
Ashpit-privies converted into Ash-closets -	...
do do Water-closets -	..
Ash-closets do do - -	.
Total number of Water-closets in District -	3966
do Ash-closets do	112
do Ash-pit privies do	20